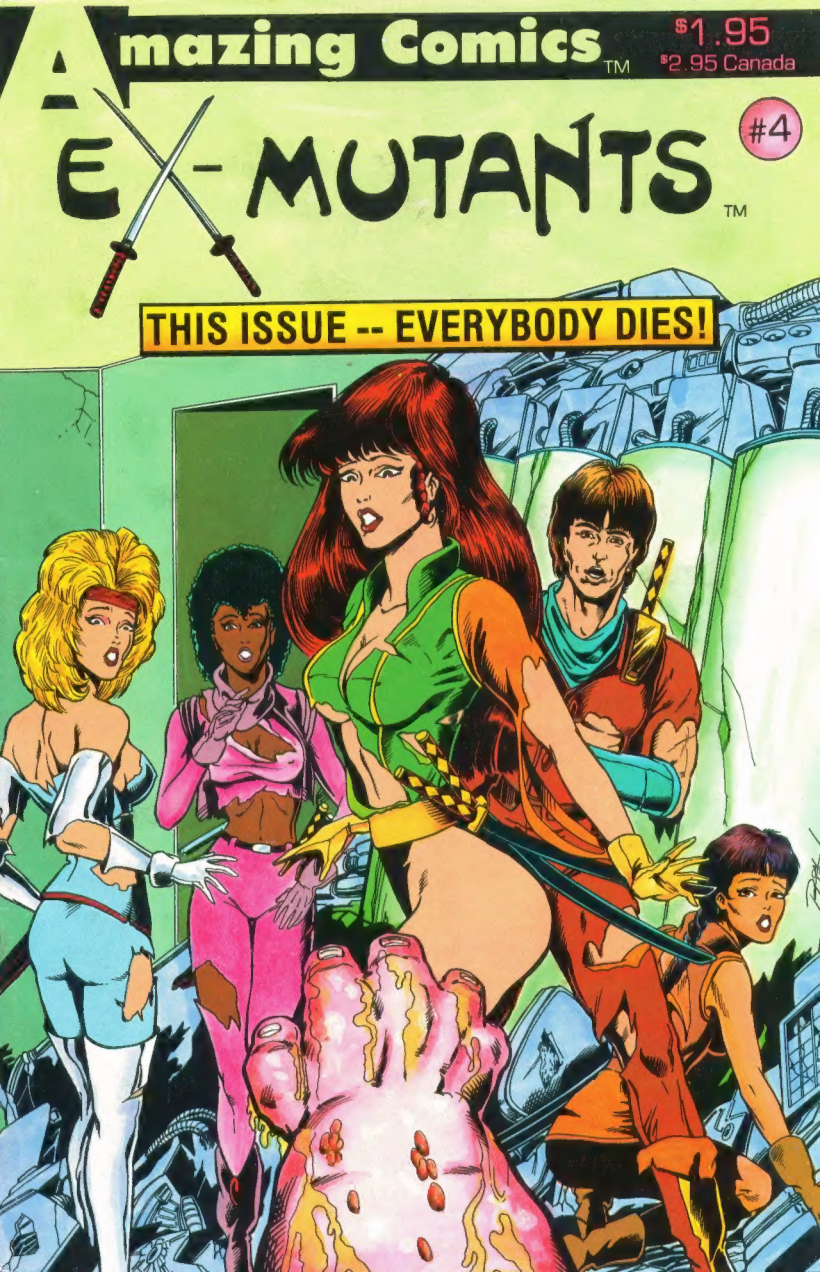
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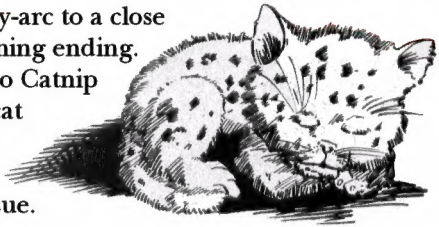
EX-MUTANTS™
#4
THIS ISSUE -- EVERYBODY DIES!

Scanner Notes

Ex-Mutants #4
"Everybody Dies!!"

This issue brings the first story-arc to a close with a wonderfully heart-warming ending. This entire issue is dedicated to Catnip Lawrence, David Lawrence's cat who lived for an amazing 19 years. Catnip's story is told in the letters column of this issue.



On a personal note: I also had a cat who lived for 19 years. At least that's the best I can figure. She showed up as a little thing in the summer of 1985 and passed away curled up in her favorite spot in the summer of 2004. She had three names - Dad called her Kittiepuss, Mom called her Mamma (she had several litters of kittens before Mom settled on this name) and, in the final years of her life, I called her Babydoll. I'd like to dedicate this issue's scan to her. So, here's to you Babydoll! I hope you've found great happiness in your afterlife!

I hope you enjoy this book as much as I have!

KING SPYDER

DECEMBER 7TH, 2008

VERSION 1

Simply Amazing™

or HEY KIDS! COMICS!

Well here it is, November. We here at AMAZING have been chugging along for about a third of a year now, bringing you **EX-MUTANTS** every month. This month, we've got two books for you, **EX-MUTANTS #4,** and **EX-MUTANTS #1: THE SPECIAL EDITION.**

And by now, you're probably convinced we're a one-trick pony, bringing you are one title or so every month, more or less on schedule, but in our own little corner, not really to compete with the big boys.

Wrong.

Be watching later this month for the AMAZING explosion! Some of these books of been coming for a long time; some were even previously scheduled. But when we had problems getting them ready, making them the books we *wanted* to publish, we had a decision to make. Rather than rushing to market with an inferior product, we waited. And now, they're here!

EX-MUTANTS will be here next month, as usual. **EX-MUTANTS #5** will introduce the first AMAZING's new series. Enter: THE NEW HUMANS!

And the very same day, with any luck you'll be able to pick up **NEW HUMANS #1!** Both written by yours truly, **EX-MUTANTS #5** is drawn by **EX-MUTANTS** veteran Ron Lim.
And in **NEW HUMANS #1,** we think, you'll like the team at the artistic helm.

I know what you're thinking. Big deal, EX-MUTANTS and a spin-off. Some explosion!

But there's much more.

This month also offers **AMAZING COMICS PREMIERES #1,** the first issue of our new showcase book. Some months we'll be bringing you new series premieres or pilots, some months off-the-wall one-shots. And I hope the book will have the same entertaining mix, and have the same kind of success, as the early years of *DC's Showcase.*

The first issue features **NINJA*BOTS,** by veteran Marvel Comic's scripter Roger McKenzie. Roger worked with Frank Miller, no less, on the beginning of the revitalization of *Daredevil,* so you know he's a writer to be reckoned with! The art is by Kevin VanHook, a newcomer we think may be a big name in no time!

Roger's also bringing the **SUN RUNNERS** with him. The **SUN RUNNERS** have run off again, and this time they've stopped at AMAZING! **TALES OF THE SUN RUNNERS #3** brings the series to the edge of its ultimate resolution, courtesy of Roger, Glen Johnson and Jim Sinclair. And wait till you meet Shifter and Geo!

Then, there's **DAEMON MASK #1,** a graphic novella reminscent of the old pulps and golden-age comics, featuring a Shadow-style hero, the Whisperer! It's written by Stuart Hopen, and drawn in an E.C.-ish crossed with Golden Age style by Russ Martin. And it gives you 32 pages of story cover to cover! Not often you get that kind of bargain.

And our final premiere for next month is **PHIGMENTS.** This long awaited super-team book is ready at last! **PHIGMENTS #1** is written by DC and Marvel veteran Alan Rowlands, and drawn by Evan Dorkins and Jim Fern! If suspense and mystery are your style, you'll love this book. Alan and Evan are so secretive about the surprises they have in store that even I don't know what's going on!

And that's just the rest of November.

In December, we'll bring you even more! A special treat for you robot fans, as **AMAZING PREMIERS #2** introduces the UN-TOUCHABOTS! **JACK FROST #1,** by the same Kevin VanHook I mentioned earlier, and further proof of the big things we expect from him.

WABBIT WAMPAGE #1, based on the popular game, answering the question "What would have happened to Elmer Fudd if Bugs Bunny had a really bad temper?" **KAMIKAZE CAT #1,** revealing the untellable secrets of the comic book industry, as Kamikaze is drawn into the dreaded Hush-Hush wars. The **SUN RUNNERS CHRISTMAS SPECIAL** and, of course, the latest issues of our continuing series!

But, of course, I can't even mention these till next month! Same Bat-time, Same Bat-chanel,

— David Lawrence

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DOC?
DOC-- WHERE ARE YOU?
HE'S OBVIOUSLY NOT HERE, ERIN. IN FACT--
--HERE IS HARDLY HERE, ANYMORE!
TRUE ENOUGH BELUSHI. BUT THE QUESTION IS--
--WHAT HAPPENED?

MY GOD, ANGIE! WHAT COULD HAVE DONE THIS?
I DON'T KNOW, VIKKI--
--AND I'M NOT SURE I WANT TO FIND OUT!
NO SIGN OF POWDER BURNS AND...
OH MY GOD!
IT LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING DID THIS WITH ITS BARE HANDS!!
ANGIE! WATCH OUT!
SCRATCH SCRATCH
HERE IT COMES!!
LORELEI! IT'S IT'S--
--IT'S A CAT?!?
MEOW?
HA! HA! HA! SOME MONSTER! I'D--
BELUSHI! LORI!
PURRRRRR
LISTEN UP--SOMETHIN' TERRIBLE'S HAPPENIN' IN THE CITY!
ZACK! WHAT'S GOING ON?
SLAM!
NO TIME TO EXPLAIN--BUT IF YUH NEED THIS DOC TUH SAVE YER LIVES FROM RADIATION POISONIN'--
--YER IN BIG TROUBLE!
LET'S GO!

UMPH!!
NO!!!
JUST ONE CHANCE...
3

EX-MUTANTS
AAAARRRR!!!!
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU ESCAPED MY WARRIORS-- BUT NOW THAT YOU'VE RETURED HERE--
EVERYBODY DIES!!
THWAK
BLAP
NOT A BAD TOSS, BELUSHI--
SHOW-OFF.
--BUT I'D HAVE SLICED HIS WHOLE DAMNED ARM OFF!
PROW PROW
PROW PROW PR
THE ELECTRIFYING END OF THE FIRST EX-MUTANTS ADVENTURE, BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
DAVID LAWRENCE · RON LIM & TIM DZON · BOB PINAHA
Amazing Author
Astounding Artists
Literate Letterer
(P.S. WE DIDN'T REALLY FORGET WILLIAM DAVIDSON, EDITOR. WE JUST WANTED TO SEE IF HE'S PAYING ATTENTION!)

VIKKI! LOR!! HELP ZACK HOLD BACK THE CROWD! IF THEY GET INTO THIS, WE'RE DONE FOR!
RIGHT, ERIN!
SCREEE
ANGELA-- YOU'LL HAVE TO RESCUE DOC. EXPLAIN OUR SITUATION TO HIM!
AYE, KEPTIN!
RRRRRR
RRRRR
AA! VIZZZZZ!!!
AND WHAT DO WE DO, FEARLESS LEADER?
US, BELUSHI? OH, WE GET THE EASY JOB--
VRROOOOM!!
--WE GET TO TAKE ON GREAT FRED!!
6

THIS WILL NOT STOP ME...

NOTHING WILL STOP ME...

I WON'T REST UNTIL YOU'RE...

DEAD.
OH, NO...

VVVRROOOOOOMMM!!

CRASH!

WHAT A STUPID WAY TO DIE--
--AND IT WASN'T EVEN BELUSHI DRIVING!

DON'T WORRY, DOC! I'VE GOT YOU!
UUHHNNNFFF!!

UH-OH...
SNAP!

THIS ISN'T GOING TO BE A SOFT LANDING!

THUD
OOOOFF!!

BUT AT LEAST IT WASN'T FATAL.
HMM. LOTS OF BRUISES, BUT NOTHING BROKEN.
ANGIE-- WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!?
THAT'S FUNNY--

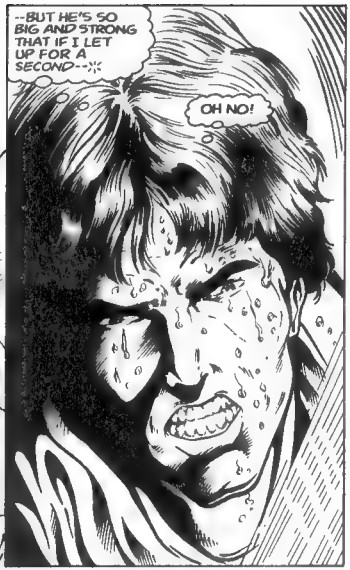
--I WAS ABOUT TO ASK YOU THE SAME THING!

AT FIRST THE MUTANTS RUN FROM THE ONSLAUGHT--
--MOST FLEEING FOR THEIR LIVES. BUT SOME--
WAK

--SOME RUN FOR A DIFFERENT REASON.
THEY'RE BACK!
THEY'RE REALLY BACK!

I'VE GOT TO TELL THE OTHERS!

I THINK I'VE GOT FRED IN TROUBLE--
KRAK!


--BUT HE'S SO BIG AND STRONG THAT IF I LET UP FOR A SECOND--
OH NO!

MY OTHER SWORD! IF HE GETS HOLD OF IT--

CLAM!
TOO SLOW, BOY!

YOU HAD ME IN TROUBLE FOR A MOMENT--
WHUMP!

--BUT IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO DIE NOW. AND WITH YOU OUT OF THE WAY--
--THE REST WILL EASILY FALL!
ERIN, WHERE ARE YOU...?

DON'T BE TOO SURE, MISTER!
OH, BELUSHI'S NOT A BAD FIGHTER--
--BUT I WAS ALWAYS THE BEST!

VERY WELL, GIRL--
--THEN YOU MAY DIE FIRST INSTEAD!

KYA!
COME ON, ERIN! YOU'RE NOT THAT MUCH BETTER THAN I AM!
OOOFF!

...SO WHEN I REALIZED WE WERE DYING OF RADIATION SICKNESS, WE RETURNED TO THE LAB TO FIND YOU. YOU WERE MISSING--
--AND THEN WE FOUND OUT FRED WAS ABOUT TO BEHEAD YOU!
SO FROM THERE, WE JUST SORT OF IMPROVISED.
HMM... ANGELA, THIS IS VERY BAD.
I CAN PROBABLY SAVE YOU--IF THE LAB HASN'T BEEN DAMAGED TOO BADLY. IT COULD BE A LONG, DIFFICULT PROCESS THOUGH, AND FIRST--
GAMP
WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE ALIVE! AND RIGHT NOW--
"--OUR CHANCES OF THAT DON'T LOOK GOOD!"
POW!
DAMMIT! WE'RE IN BIG TROUBLE! THEY'RE SWAMPIN' US!
WHACK
WE CAN'T HOLD OUT MUCH LONGER!
12

:SIGH: THIS IS GETTIN' US NOWHERE!

WAW!
OUR ONLY HOPE IS TO STOP 'EM AT THE SOURCE!

IF BELUSHI AND ERIN BEAT FRED, WE MIGHT HAVE A CHANCE--
--THE OTHERS MIGHT SURRENDER--

--OR AT LEAST LOSE INTEREST. BUT THEY'RE BARELY HOLDIN' THEIR OWN--
--AND WE'RE DOIN' WORSE!

BUT WE'VE GOTTA TRY TO BUY THEM TIME TO...
WHRRK

HEY!!

OH MY GOD!
ZACK!!
WHAT IS THAT?
YOU KNOW I COULD TRY TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION--
--BUT IF I DID, YOU'D JUST THINK I WAS CRAZY!

I GUESS THAT MEANS YOU SEE IT, TOO. WELL, WHATEVER IT IS--
--LET'S GET IT!!
PUT HIM DOWN, YOU--

UH-OH.

THUD!

THIS IS IT, ERIN! WE'VE GOT HIM RIGHT WHERE WE WANT HIM!!
YEAH?
THEN WHY ARE WE BOTH BREATHING HARDER THAN HE IS?

HAH! HE JUST DOESN'T WANT US TO KNOW HOW MUCH TROUBLE HE'S IN!
AH... BLU--

--I THINK WE'RE THE ONES IN TROUBLE NOW!
GULP!

POW
KAWAK!

NO!!!
DOC, WE'VE GOT TO SAVE THEM!
ANGIE, WE CAN'T--

DOC--HAVE YOU GONE CRAZY?! LET ME GO!! I'VE GOT TO RESCUE THEM!!

DAMN IT, ANGIE! THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO NOW!
WE'VE GOT TO GET AWAY-- TRY TO PLAN...
UH... EXCUSE ME--

--CAN WE HELP?
HELP...?

WHY WOULD YOU HELP?
FOR MANY REASONS. BUT IF WE'RE GOING TO TALK--

--I SUGGEST WE DO IT SOMEPLACE ELSE!
I THINK YOU HAVE A POINT.

QUICK-- THIS WAY!
WUP

THEY'RE GAINING ON US!
NOT FOR LONG, DOC--

--NOT FOR LONG!
READY...

NOW!!
THAT SHOULD HOLD THEM FOR HOURS, AND IF THAT'S NOT LONG ENOUGH--
--WELL, THEN IT WON'T REALLY MATTER WHAT HAPPENS!
KRASSH!!!

WHY ARE YOU HELPING ME?
DOC--FRED DOES NOT HAVE THE ABSOLUTE LOYALTY OF ALL HIS "SUBJECTS."
IN TRUTH, HIS RULE IS BUILT ON EQUAL PARTS OF FEAR AND APATHY.

"FOR SOME OF US, THE APPEARANCE OF YOUR EX-MUTANTS CHANGED ALL THAT!

"WE BEGAN TO TALK--
"--THEN TO PLAN AND ORGANIZE!

"WHEN YOU WERE CAPTURED, WE THOUGHT ALL HOPE WAS LOST--

"--BUT WHEN THE EX-MUTANTS ARRIVED, WE SAW WE HAD ONE LAST CHANCE!"

AT MOST, AROUND TWO DOZEN ARE REALLY LOYAL TO FRED. THE REST--
--WELL, IF YOU CAN HANDLE FRED, WE CAN TAKE CARE OF THE REST.
THAT'S NOT GOING TO BE EASY. FRED ALONE IS DANGEROUS ENOUGH--
--BUT THAT CHILD OF HIS-- HE'S JUST TOO POWERFUL, TOO UNPREDICTABLE...
WAIT A MINUTE!!!
DOC! WHAT IS IT?!
MAYBE NOT SO UNPREDICTABLE AFTER ALL! AND I'VE BEEN TOO BLINDED BY FEAR TO SEE IT!
THE CHILD COULD BE THE KEY TO EVERYTHING! IT'S A DANGEROUS CHANCE, BUT IT MAKES SENSE--
--AND LIKE YOU SAY, WE'VE GOT NOTHING TO LOSE!
FRED'S PROBABLY STILL HOLDING THE EX-MUTANTS IN TIME'S SQUARE! CAN THESE OLD SEWER LINES GET US THERE?
YES, BUT--
THERE'S NO TIME! I'LL EXPLAIN ON THE WAY!
WAIT!
THESE HUMANS OF YOURS, CAN YOU CREATE MORE OF THEM?
MAYBE EVEN US?
I DON'T KNOW.
SOMEDAY, PERHAPS...
I CAN'T MAKE PROMISES.
LET'S GO!
18

SO WHAT DO YOU THINK? SHOULD I KILL YOU NOW--
--OR USE YOU AS BAIT TO SNARE THE ONE I REALLY WANT?
SEVEN BRIDES FOR SEVEN SAMURAI
WHAT DO YOU THINK? IF YOU'RE NICE, MAYBE I COULD LET YOU LIVE A LITTLE LONGER...
YOU MAY KILL ME, YOU SLIMY BASTARD--
MEOW!
--BUT YOU'LL NEVER TOUCH ME AGAIN!!
KRAK
NEVER!!!
YOU'LL DIE FIRST FOR THAT, GIRL!!
ENOUGH!!!
HISSS!
MEOW!
HERE I AM, FRED! THE ONE YOU TRULY WANT.
WELL, CUSAT, YOU'VE RETURNED TO DIE WITH YOUR CHILDREN!
DIE! DIE! DIE! THAT'S ALL HE EVER TALKS ABOUT! YOU'RE A REAL ONE-NOTE GUY, FRED, YOU KNOW THAT?
AND YOU--DOES LIFE MEAN SO LITTLE TO YOU DISLOYAL FOOLS THAT YOU'D COME HERE NOW, BESIDE HIM?
LIFE MEANS MUCH TO US, FRED--
--THE MOCKERY OF LIFE YOU OFFER MEANS NOTHING!
THEN I'LL BE HAPPY TO OBLIGE YOU--AND I WON'T EVEN HAVE TO TOUCH YOU MYSELF! SON--
--KILL THEM!!!
19

NO.

STOP.

NO! YOU WILL OBEY ME! KILL THEM! I SAID KILL THEM!!!

YOU SEE, FRED, I MADE A MISTAKE. WHEN I RAN FROM HIM. HE DIDN'T WANT TO HURT ME. HE WAS JUST REACHING OUT.
HE'S A CONFUSED, FRIGHTENED CHILD, UNAWARE OF HIS OWN STRENGTH.

AND THE OBEDIENCE YOU PURCHASED WITH PAIN--
--I EARNED WITH LOVE! OH, HE PROBABLY WOULDN'T LISTEN IF I ASKED HIM TO ATTACK YOU--

SEVEN
--BUT HE WON'T HURT ME, EITHER!
PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT. BUT I WON'T HAVE THAT PROBLEM FOR LONG--

--AFTER I KILL YOU!!!

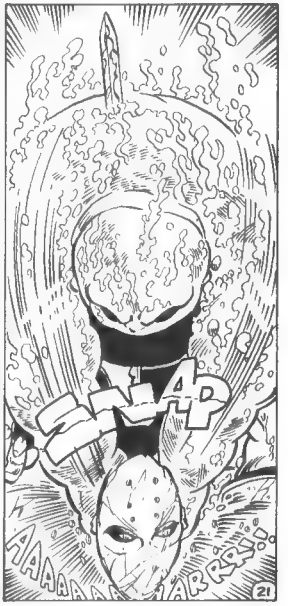
REEOOW!!!
AAARGH!!
WHY, YOU STUPID LITTLE BEAST--

WAP
GET AWAY FROM ME!!
THIS WON'T SAVE YOU, DOCTOR!!

THE BEAST IS GONE, YOUR EX-MUTANTS ARE HELPLESS--

--NO ONE WILL SAVE YOU NOW!
BUT IN THAT INSTANT, THE CHILD SOME THOUGHT A MONSTER--

--KNOWS WHO HIS TRUE FATHER IS!
DADA!!!
NO! YOU LITTLE IDIOT...


WAP
AAAAAAAARRR

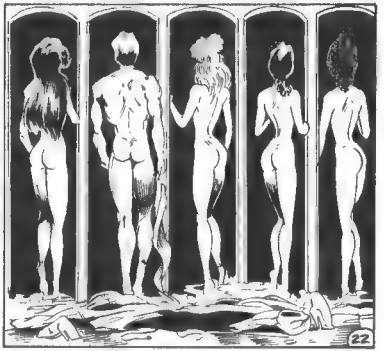
HE'S DEAD...

UH... I THINK WE'RE IN TROUBLE.

HURRAY!!
DING DONG, THE WITCH IS DEAD.
HUH?
HISTORICAL ALLUSION. YOU PROBABLY WOULDN'T GET IT.
WIZARD OF OZ. JUDY GARLAND, BURT LAHR, RAY BOLGER, JACK HALEY, AND TOTO, TOO.

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT, DOC! YOU TOOK CARE OF BOTH OF THOSE MONSTERS!
NO, SON. THEY'RE BOTH DEAD--
--BUT THERE WAS ONLY ONE MONSTER.

YOU'RE ALL VERY SICK. I'VE GOT TO GET YOU BACK IN THE TUBES IMMEDIATELY!
BACK IN--
IT'S YOUR ONLY CHANCE.



HOW ARE THEY, DOC?
I DON'T HONESTLY KNOW. THEY'RE ALIVE, BUT OUTSIDE OF THAT--

--I MIGHT NOT KNOW FOR A LONG TIME.
SO YOU'RE ZACK! ANGIE TOLD ME ABOUT YOU. SHE SAID YOU WERE A GOOD FRIEND TO ALL OF THEM.
I HOPE WE CAN BE FRIENDS, TOO.

THERE'S NOTHIN' HERE FER ME NOW.

SO LONG, DOC. I DON'T THINK I'LL BE SEEIN' YA!

WAIT A MINUTE, ZACK!

I FOUND THESE INSIDE A BOMBED-OUT BUILDING. NOTHING BUT RUBBLE INSIDE--
--EVERY OTHER BIT OF GLASS FOR BLOCKS SHATTERED--

AND THESE SURVIVED! A TOAST, ZACK?
YOU TOO? WELL, WHY NOT?
RRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR
AFTER ALL, I'VE GOT PLENTY OF POWDERED MILK LEFT.
ALL RIGHT, THEN. A TOAST, DOC--
CLINK
--TUH ABSENT FRIENDS!
A FINE TOAST, ZACK--
--TO ABSENT FRIENDS!
DEDICATED WITH LOVE AND RESPECT TO CATNIP, MY GOOD FRIEND FOR THIRTEEN YEARS, WHO RAGED AGAINST THE DYING OF THE LIGHT. YOU ARE MISSED. --David.
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THE NEW HUMANS!

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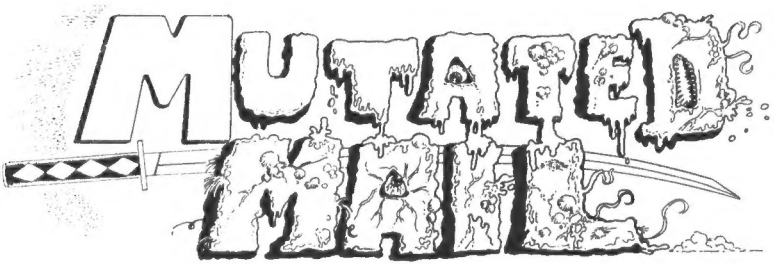

Send your letters to:
2405 Warwood Ave., Wheeling, WV 26003

CATNIP LAWRENCE
1967-1986

Or at least that's what the marker says. Her true age will always be uncertain, but the 1967 seemed reasonable based on the vet's guesstimate.

I finished writing this issue on the day Catnip died. The vet told me a couple days earlier that she wasn't likely to last the day. My vague unhappiness with my *previous* draft of the script and Catnip's impending demise came together, and the result was what I think is the best script I've written for the series thus far. I like to think it's Catnip's last gift to me.

Catnip always was a tough old broad, and she hung on longer than anyone could have expected. On her last day I put her out on the fire escape, in the sun, because in her last years that was her favorite spot. My first copy of **EX-MUTANTS #1** came through the mail, and I read it to her. I helped her drink her water, and did whatever I could to make her comfortable. I sang the Beatles' "Golden Slumbers" to her several hundred times.

Finally, as night came, fearing she might linger for several days in what had become unbearable suffering for both of us, the vet came to the house to put her to sleep. I held Catnip till she came. Gratefully, Catnip was unconcious by the time she arrived. And so, as I held her, she was given an overdose of anesthetic, and peacefully passed away at about 9:30 p.m. on August 12, 1986.

It's two months later as I write this, and I still miss her.

Catnip was buried in the Animal Memorial Park, in the suburbs of Pittsburgh, PA.

******

And now for your letters...

Dear People,

I'd like to say one thing right away—I absolutely loved **EX-MUTANTS #1.** Let's hope you can keep the quality high and the entertainment entertaining. I think you can do it.

Now for my much valued comments and criticisms on **EX-MUTANTS #1.** The ad in *The Comic Buyer's Guide* first caught my interest. The entry in the *Amazing Heroes Preview Special* sold me. When I received my "fix" at the Book Swap and saw **EX-MUTANTS** was part of it, I knew it would be one of the best comics I'd read. The cover, although not award-winning, was very attractive, and the price was very reasonable for what was inside.

The insides were an entertaining masterpiece. I loved it from cover to cover. The writing is top notch, the lettering flawless, and the art is beautiful. Even the preview of **#2** is well-designed. Some of those mutants look real nasty. The editorials were entertaining, unlike so many others.

As for the characterization, I thought it was a little lacking, but I'm sure it will improve. As we follow our five heroes I'm sure we'll learn more about them. Will we be seeing more of Doc Cugat? He's one of my favorite characters, along with Belushi, Vikki and—Fred?!!

For some reason, I believe Fred is totally human, which would explain why he wears the mask, and why he's the leader of the other mutants.

I loved the conversation between our heroes around the campfire. I snicker even as I re-read it. This is going to be an interesting set of relationships. I liked how you played the scene between Vikki and Belushi. Please continue on this track.

How is Belushi going to handle travelling with four beautiful women? We all need male companionship sometimes. So far Belushi's handling it as I would, with a sense of humor, but how long can he keep it up?

Did I tell you I love this book, yet?

Sincerely,

Kris Boose
107 Cherry Ridge Road
State College PA 16803-3309

You know, Kris, you're the first person to worry that Belushi will miss male campanionship. The general drift on the subject has been a lot closer to "lucky guy, I wish I were him."

As for Fred, all I can say is the mysteries of the great one are many. And despite the outcome of this issue, many of those secrets will be revealed in the coming months, both here and in our upcoming companion title. More on that later.

Dear Everybody,

I'd like to congratulate you all on a comic that was, overall, well done.

Being among the many who are skeptical of black-and-white comics, I was hard-put to plunk down the $1.80. But then, the splash page caught my eye and sparked enough interest to convince me to part with my hard-earned currency. Mr. Lim and Mr. Witherby have created that fine line needed so desperately in other black and whites. The art simply screamed for color, but did fine without it. Besides, the women look magnificent!

Sadly, the same cannot be said about the basic plot and current storyline. While I realize groundwork must be established early, it seemed the writers tried to cram too much into the premiere issue.

In one segment, Doc finds the solar battery, then five mutants are "cured," next "weeks" of training and BAMM! they're great fighters, as we see their skills successfully put to the test, and finally our heroes ramble off to unknown adventures, hopefully without this kind of bland storytelling.

There is much potential here for a great book, and I look forward to watching it unfold. Just take it slow and easy.

Yours,

Steve Slick
1608 32nd Ave.
Gulfport MS 39501

Steve, I've never taken anything slow and easy, as any of my drinking buddies can attest. I do, however, agree with most of your criticisms of the first issue. Yes, I probably did cram too much in, but I wanted to get most of the back-story out of the way earlier, and I'd probably do the same if I had it to do over again. I do hope the current storyline has been more to your liking, and I'd like to congratulate you on writing the first non-rave review. A guy loves the pats on the back, but a little constructive criticism once in a while never hurt anyone. And on that note, I think I'll run the most negative letter we've received thus far...

Gentlemen,

I like the story so far, but there is one very glaring problem with the story that makes it difficult to even consider this anything but a farce.

All the girls are wearing high-heeled boots. I am learning to use a shinai, and the first thing I had to learn was to keep my balance up on the ball of my foot so I could shift my weight to parry without losing my balance. No mater how good someone is at balancing on heels, it is impossible for any serious fighter.

So get rid of the boots. If you don't believe me, try to fight in heels. Even cowboy boots with their relatively low heels can shift the balance enough to create problems. But at least cowboy boots would be better than what they have one, and more durable as well.

Which brings me to the clothes. Boy, are they going to get cold at night! Belushi will have it made trying to keep them all warm once the weather turns bad. How about dropping the model routine and getting them in some more sensible clothing? Then I may take you seriously.

Bonnie Foreman
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I'm tempted to answer with a wisecrack along the lines of "If you think heels are impractical for combat, you've never been kicked by a girl who's wearing them," but you do raise a worthwhile point. The best answer I can give you, Bonnie, is I've never seen a comic book costume that looked practical, and the same thing goes for most movies and TV shows also. The point of the thing is too make the characters look good. The Batman's costume is probably the best looking one ever designed, as far as I'm concerned, but have you ever considered how impractical it is? The cape would probably get him killed the first night. And every time I look at Robin, I hope the climate in Gotham is awfully tropical.

So try and judge our characters by what they do, not what they wear. I already think that Erin, after just four issues, is as strong a woman character as I've come across in comics. I don't think the other girls are far behind her either. Hope you agree with me.

That's about all we've got time for this time. Just want to remind you that ***EX-MUTANTS #5*** *will be around next month, and it'll bring you a sneak look at the latest series from AMAZING. Spinning of from the pages of* ***EX-MUTANTS*** *into their own title are* ***THE NEW HUMANS!*** *So look out for* ***EX-MUTANTS #5*** *and* ***THE NEW HUMANS #1*** *next month, for a double dose of post-holocaust excitement.*

And as for me, I'm returning to the closet, where men are but empty suits.

—David Lawrence

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